

# The Commoner.

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## Dolliver on Anarchy.

Senator Dolliver of Iowa made a speech at the Memorial Services held in Chicago on Sunday, September 22d. In the course of his remarks he took occasion to discuss two phases of the question of anarchy, or rather two remedies. Some seem to think that anarchy cannot be suppressed without limiting the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. It is refreshing to find one so eminent in the republican party as Mr. Dolliver challenging this dangerous doctrine. He says:

"A government like ours is always slow to move, and often awkward in its motions, but it can be trusted to find effective remedies for conditions like these, at least after they become intolerable. But these remedies, in order to become effective, must not evade the sense of justice which is universal, nor the traditions of civil liberty, which we have inherited from our fathers. The bill of rights written in the English language, stands for too many centuries of sacrifice, too many battlefields sanctified by blood, too many hopes of mankind reaching toward the ages to come, to be mutilated in the least in order to meet the case of a handful of miscreants whose names nobody can pronounce.

Anarchy can be overcome without impairing the liberties of the people or trenching upon those rights which are essential to the republic. His suggestions go further than temporary suppression of anarchy. He deals with some of the causes which lead up to and develop the spirit of anarchy. He says:

"It ought not to be forgotten that conspirators, working out their nefarious plans in secret, in the dens and caves of the earth, enjoy an unconscious co-operation and side partnership with every lawless influence abroad in the world. Legislatures who betray the commonwealth, judges who poison the fountains of justice, city governments which come to terms with crime—all these are regular contributors to the campaign fund of anarchy."

There is food for thought in what Senator Dolliver says. Lawlessness in high places breeds lawlessness among less conspicuous individuals, and it will be difficult to teach the humbler members of society respect for law and government if there are men or corporations so great that they can with impunity defy the law and the authority of the government.

The senator also refers to the burnings which have taken place in several sections of the union and declares that they do not contribute to the safety of society. Lynch law is either a reflection upon the government or it is an indication of unrestrained passion upon the part of the mob. If the government is efficiently administered there is no occasion to resort to lynch law, and if it is not efficiently administered it is better to reform the government than to set aside its authority.

But when the mob, not satisfied with taking the life of the victim, adds torture, it betrays a brutality that shames our civilization.

The assaults upon women which have been the cause of most of the burnings, are indescribably wicked, but it is enough that the guilty party should atone for the deed with his life. The taking of a human life, even in the enforcement of the laws of society, is a grave and serious thing. To torture a human being to death amid shouts of revenge is debasing and cannot but result injuriously to society.

The assassination of the President will bring about a discussion of lawlessness and lead to an investigation of the influences which lead to lawlessness.

Senator Dolliver has gone deeper into the subject than many of the republican editors who have sought to hide their own responsibility behind columns of partisan abuse. He is to be congratulated upon the courage which he has manifested and the breadth of view he has shown.

## Senator Cockrell's Position.

Senator Cockrell of Missouri is one of the many Democrats whose position on public questions has been misrepresented by the Republican and gold Democratic papers which attempt so persistently to create the impression that the gold standard has been accepted by the American people. The senator takes occasion to correct certain statements that were attributed to him, and says:

"I never said the silver question was dead. On the contrary, I said I believed in bimetallism as firmly as ever, but it was now impossible, in a practical sense, to make it a vital or living issue, as long as we were having a constant increase in the volume of money, the main object we had in advocating bimetallism, and which increase had established our principle, that an increase in the volume of money would tend to restore prosperity and revive business, and proved we were right. Notwithstanding the increased production of gold, still I do not believe that gold will prove sufficient in production and volume to meet the demands of the world's business. When that time comes, bimetallism will again be a practical issue, and I shall be for it at 16 to 1, the only practicable ratio, in my judgment. I shall oppose in the future, as I have in the past, all attempts to demonetize the silver dollar, or to take away its legal tender, or to transfer the issue of our paper currency to the national banks, or to cancel the greenbacks.

## President Roosevelt on Trusts.

In his speech at Minneapolis on Labor Day, President Roosevelt said:

"More and more it is evident that the state, and if necessary the nation, has got to possess the right of supervision and control as regards the great corporations which are its creatures, particularly as regards the great business combinations which derive a portion of their importance from the existence of some monopolistic tendency."

Mr. Roosevelt was then Vice-President

and as such had little influence in shaping the policy of his party. He is now President and in a position to give force and effect to his views on the trust question. As the Chief Executive it is his duty to enforce the law as he finds it. If the present Attorney-General is not willing to carry out his instructions he can demand his resignation and appoint a new Attorney-General. He can give no excuse for a failure to enforce the law. When he was exercising authority in New York City he took the position that a law ought either to be enforced or repealed. It is to be hoped that he will take the same position now.

Not only is he in control of the Executive Branch of the government, but he has a Senate, House and Supreme Court in political harmony with him. If existing laws are not sufficient, he has the power of recommendation and can propose measures sufficiently severe to give to the people the protection which he admits to be needed. It will be interesting to watch the new President and see whether the hostility to trusts manifested by him when he was laying his plans to capture the next republican convention is increased or lessened by the responsibilities of the office to which he aspired.

## The New Party.

The new party, recently organized at Kansas City, presents the following platform for the consideration of the public:

"First, we demand the initiative and referendum and the imperative mandate.

"Second, we favor the public ownership of all public utilities as the people shall from time to time elect.

"Third, the land, including all natural resources, the heritage of the people, should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership should be prohibited. All lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, or held by aliens, should be reclaimed and held for actual settlers only.

"Fourth, we favor scientific money, based upon the entire wealth of the nation, and not redeemable in any specific commodity, but to be full legal tender for all debts, private or public, to be issued by the government only and without the intervention of banks, sufficient in quantity to meet the requirements of commerce.

"Fifth, we believe in just and natural taxation.

"Sixth, we demand the election of the president, vice president, federal judges and senators by the people.

Seventh, we favor the creation of a cabinet office of the department of labor and equitable arbitration.

"Eighth, we favor the establishment of postal savings banks.

"Ninth, we favor the adoption of such constitutional amendments as may be necessary to make the above laws."

It will be noticed that the platform entirely ignores a number of questions which are of immediate and vital importance, and enlarges